

Hollingworth Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1913.

By

REGINALD POMFRET WYLDE.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1913.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to place before you my second Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, and in addition to which I give a review of the local conditions at the present time, together with figures and tables covering vital statistics for the year 1913. In the forming of my observations under their several headings, I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for much useful information. I trust you will find this report a complete record, and consistent with previous statistics.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Hollingworth, situated on the eastern border of Cheshire, consists of a township occupying a position at the base of a very hilly county district. The latter extends over the northern slope of the Longdendale Valley, and to the south faces North-Derbyshire—the summit of the Peak being visible. Towards the north-east are situated the moors of South Yorkshire, and a few miles to the westward, the Lancashire border is met. The Valley of Longdendale, wending its way between lofty hills, covers an extensive area, and through it passes the main road between Manchester and Sheffield. The main street of Hollingworth is also part of this main road.

Situated on the Manchester side of the township is Mottram, and on the Sheffield side Tintwistle. The mean altitude of the main street of Hollingworth is 500 feet above sea level, and the district to the northern side rises to a maximum of 1,300 feet. The river Etherow winds through the Valley, and here forms the boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The subsoil in the immediate neighbourhood is mostly clay leading to sandstone rock, but at a higher altitude than the main street, the subsoil almost ceases, and the soil is found to be directly deposited on rock. This leads to poor vegetation, which is also partly caused by the severe east winds which frequently drive through the Valley. The climate of the district is very bracing.

Cotton workers, engaged both in spinning and weaving, form the majority of the population, and within the rateable area are three large cotton mills and one large bleaching works. Beyond these there is no other industry of any importance which would tend to affect the Public Health.

POPULATION.

The population of Hollingworth, according to the Census returns of 1911, was 2,581. Very few new houses have been built since 1911, in spite of the fact that there is a general demand for 3-bedroomed houses. A good return awaits the enterprising investor who would build some houses larger than the ordinary cottage, with at least three bedrooms and a bathroom, for the property would find ready tenants.

Population Census, 1911	2,581
Area of District in Acres	2,086
Number of Inhabited Houses	634
Average number of persons per House	4.07
Nett Birth-rate for 1,000 living	20.9
Nett Death-rate for 1,000 living	14.3
Nett Deaths under 1 year of age	3
Nett Death-rate under 1 year per 1,000 nett births	55

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

1. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.
2. Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part iii.
3. Baths and Washhouses' Act.

BYE-LAWS.

Bye-Laws in force relate to the following :—

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Common Lodging Houses.
3. Slaughterhouses.
4. Houses let in Lodgings.
5. Cleansing and Scavenging.
6. Offensive Trades.
7. Nuisances.

No new Bye-Law was adopted during 1913.

BIRTHS.

54 Births were registered in the District during 1913, and no correction of this number has been received from the Registrar-General.

This number is 10 below the average for the last five years, and one less than last year.

Of the 54 births 21 were males, and 33 females, 2 being illegitimate. This gives an annual birth-rate of 20.9 per 1,000, as compared with 21.3 in 1912.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 36, one of which number was a non-resident. There were two inhabitants who died in public institutions away from the local area, thus making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 37.

This gives a death-rate of 14.3 per 1,000 persons living, which may be compared with the death-rate for 1912, viz., 17.4.

The return of deaths of adults shows that the average age at death was—Male 63, female 64.

There is no public institution within the district receiving sick or infirm persons.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were three deaths of infants under one year of age belonging to the District, although only two were registered in the District.

The causes of Death certified were :

Marasmus	1
Pneumonia	1
Congenital Syphilis	1

This gives a rate per 1,000 births of 55.

This is the lowest infantile death-rate for years.

ILLEGITIMACY.

Two of the 54 births registered during 1913 were illegitimate.

INQUESTS.

Two inquests were held in Hollingworth during 1913. One was upon a man aged 34 years, who died of Heart Disease.

The second inquest was upon a man aged 78 years, whose death was due to Senile Decay, accelerated by shock, caused through a fractured arm.

POOR LAW.

Hollingworth is included in the No. 8 District of the Ashton-under-Lyne Union. The Union Hospital is situated in Ashton, and the Relieving Officer visits this district every Friday to administer outdoor relief.

WATER SUPPLY.

Hollingworth has a very satisfactory water supply in a spring rising high up the Arnfield Clough, and nearly all the houses in the main street, and streets off it, are supplied from this source, connected by short service pipes, which are well tinned, and no trace of lead has ever been detected in the water. Analysis has repeatedly shown the water to be of exceptional purity. In parts not supplied with the public service nearly every dwelling is in possession of a satisfactory private supply of drinking water.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These have their sources in the more elevated parts of the District, and their course is mostly derived, in the first instance, by spring water welling up from Rock. They are

later fed by surface water, and in nearly every case reach the river with little or no pollution.

The River Etherow is inspected by the Mersey and Irwell Joint Rivers' Pollution Committee, and their Inspectors continue to give Hollingworth a clean report. There are no Private Sewage Disposal works in Hollingworth. As regards effluents from manufacturing concerns, I can only refer, as in my last report, to the River Etherow Bleaching Company, who have their own settling tanks, which are passed by the Joint Committee's Inspectors.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The District is well equipped with a good Main Sewer, which has satisfactory fall and flush. House drains and sewers are nearly all connected with the main sewer. There are now only three cesspools in use, which are regularly inspected and emptied. The farmsteads on the hillsides have a satisfactory system of sewers of their own, and their drains mostly empty into cesspools not in close proximity to any building. These cesspools are periodically cleared by the farmers themselves, and the contents utilised as manure on the land.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By means of a well-arranged water carriage system, the sewage is conveyed to the disposal works, which are situated down the river, well away from all dwelling-houses.

The treatment at the outfall works is by tanks, filters, and land, and I have nothing unsatisfactory to report for the year 1913.

The Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee took eight samples during the year, and good effluents were reported in each case.

SCAVENCING.

The scavenging of all premises is carried out by the Council, and also by private owners, and is now quite satisfactory.

The old property is in most cases served by midden privies, which are being gradually abolished. Dry Ashpits, Pail Closets, and Dust Bins are also found.

The approximate numbers are :

Midden Privies	218
Dry Ashpits	168
Pail Closets	108
Dust-Bins	28
Cesspools	3
Waste Water-Closets	54
Town's Water-Closets	44

The cleansing of all these accommodations is in the hands of the Inspector, who sees that they are attended to when required. 75 Inspections were made during the year 1913, and no statutory notices were served. The statutory notice served in the case of an offensive urinal mentioned in my last report has been complied with, and a new one has now been built.

CLEANSING OF STREETS.

The condition of the main street has been satisfactory during the year, and I have nothing of importance to remark under this head.

The method of tar-spreading, for the prevention of the dust nuisance, is, I understand, to be employed again this year.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The District has no lodging-house, nor any house let in lodgings. There is no cellar dwelling, and no offensive trade.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The district is provided with a commodious and modern Elementary School. The sanitary arrangements and conditions are regularly inspected. The teachers report to me all cases of infectious diseases, whether notifiable or not. In this way such diseases as whooping cough, ringworm, pediculi capitis, etc., are at once detected.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—The milk supplied to this district is almost entirely produced on farms within the district, and during 1913 there were no complaints as to either quantity or quality.

At the close of 1913 the Register showed—

17 Dairies,
17 Cowsheds,
No Milkshop.

I have no complaints to make against any of these, and no faults have been reported to me. In October last a case of suspected Bovine Tuberculosis, at a local farm, was reported to me. I visited the farm, and found one of the Cowsheds in a very bad condition. The Medical Officer of Health for the County subsequently came over to make an inspection, and the matter was left in his hands. Since then I have heard nothing further relating to this case.

(b) OTHER FOODS :—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—The District has no public slaughterhouse. There are 5 private slaughterhouses, which are satisfactory, and all are registered. They are inspected monthly.

PIGGERIES.—These are five in number, and they are in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES.—There is one Bakehouse, and seven Confectioners' Bakehouses. They are all overground, and are satisfactory.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The Council are to be congratulated on their success regarding their public baths. Two slipper baths were constructed in the new office buildings, in November last. These baths were so well attended that the Council decided to add four more, and they are now in course of construction. They have supplied a long-felt want, and will, I am sure, tend to improve the health of the inhabitants. The average number of bathers amounts to 250 per month, which is excellent.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected last year.

The notice which was sent to the landlords of certain property for necessary alterations under the Housing and Town Planning Act, the property being 135, Wednesough, as mentioned in my last report, has now been complied with, and everything is satisfactory.

There are now only 28 Back-to-Back houses, and notices regarding 20 of these have been issued to the landlords concerned. As a result, 12 notices have been complied with, and the remainder are being attended to, and nearing completion.

There were 40 dwelling-houses inspected during 1913, 20 of which appeared to be satisfactory, except for a few minor defects, which were pointed out and remedied.

The following is a tabular statement required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, relating to the dwelling-houses inspected under section 17 of the Act of 1909, during the year 1913 :—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	40
Number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	Nil
Number of closing orders made	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders ...	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation	Nil

General character of the defects found to exist :—

Defective roofs, eaves, gutters, rain-pipes and gully traps.
Back to Back houses, with want of air space and ventilation.

Defective floors, staircases, doors and ceilings, windows not made to open, and deficient sanitary convenience.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board, in December last, stating that the number of houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, was very small, having regard to the number of inhabited houses in the District.

I should like to point out that the Urban District Council anticipated this Act by ordering a thorough and exhaustive inspection of every block of property in the Urban District before the Housing and Town Planning Act came into force.

This inspection occupied three years, and the Council now have in their possession a minute record of the accommodation and sanitary conditions of every house in the District.

So far, our energies have been entirely concentrated on inspections of the worst and most difficult property in the District, and I am glad to say that we have, at the present time, almost completed this particular type, and the inspection of the remainder of the houses in the District will now be a comparatively easy matter.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 7 Factories in the District, viz., 3 Cotton Mills, 1 Bleaching Works, 1 Engraving Shop, 1 Gas Works, and 1 Mineral Water Factory.

There are 25 Workshops.

Frequent inspections have been made, and defects pointed out have in nearly all cases been remedied by the owners.

The work in connection with the sanitary arrangements at Mersey Mills, as mentioned in my last report, is, I am glad to say, now nearing completion.

The fire escapes in the factories of the district have received the attention of the Inspector, and several small defects, which were pointed out, received immediate attention. There are no Workplaces, nor any Homeworkers' Premises.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The only Isolation Hospital in Longdendale is situated on Mottram Moor, the ownership being vested in the three Councils of Mottram, Hollingworth, and Tintwistle. Only one case has ever been admitted, and home isolation has been found to be eminently satisfactory in all cases up-to-date.

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year 1913 was remarkably free from Acute Infectious Diseases. Only three cases were reported to me.

There were two cases of Diphtheria, one reported to me in January, and the other in August. Both made a good recovery, after being treated with Antitoxin.

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Spout Green, in December. The patient had evidently contracted the disease in Hyde, where there has been a mild epidemic. The patient was promptly isolated, and no other case occurred.

I might mention that according to the statistics which I have just received from the Local Government Board, out of the 41 Urban Districts in Cheshire, Mottram and Hollingworth are top of the list in respect to their immunity from infectious diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Only one death from Tuberculous Diseases was registered, and that was a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were two cases reported to me according to the regulations of the recent general order of Tuberculosis, viz. :—

Tubercular Glands of the Neck	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1

I visited and inspected the homes in each case, and laid down the ordinary general rules.

The Pulmonary case has now been removed to a Sanatorium.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

The arrangement which the Council made with the Manchester Health Laboratory for the examination of Morbid Products has proved very useful during the last 12 months, and has resulted in a quick and correct diagnosis in five suspected cases.

I have in my possession a supply of Antitoxin, and am in a position to supply the serum to any medical practitioner in attendance upon cases of Diphtheria in the District.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

There were 2 Midwives on the County Register last year, residing and practising in this district. Three other Midwives practice in the district, but live in Derbyshire.

During 1913 they attended 29 cases out of 54 births registered. No records of sending for medical help have been received.

Their attendance has not been associated with any death of either mother or child.

I received no notifications of still-birth, and none of their cases had Puerperal Fever, or other infectious disease.

The Midwives have access to disinfectants, which are supplied gratis by the Council.

Thermometers are now used, and the use of charts for temperature and pulse rate is being inculcated.

Systematic inspections are made quarterly.

These Midwives, whom I frequently meet, are always clean, and do their work well.

I consider that for the present the District is served with a sufficient number of this class of certified Midwives.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. POMFRET WYLDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1913.

HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.	No.	No. of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.		
		Statutory Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remain- ing in hand.	Prosecu- tions instituted	Prosecu- tions pending
Dwelling Houses (General Inspections)	10	10	9	1	...	...
Back-to-Back Houses	28	28	28	...	...	...
Cesspools	20	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	35	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Accumulations	8	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughterhouses (Private)	60	...	...	...	...	...
Other Places where Food is Produced or Sold	300	35	35	...	...	...
Piggeries	48	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies	80	...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds	14	2	1	1	...	...
Factories	20	3	2	1	...	...
Workshops	60	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses (Overground)	20	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	703	78	75	3	...	...

WILLIAM PITT, Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years.
HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
		Un-corrected No.	Nett.	No.	Rate	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 yr. of age		At all Ages.
								No.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	
1908	2980	80	26.8	49	16.4		4	10	124	53
1909	2980	52	17.4	33	11.0		...	3	57	33
1910	2980	72	24.1	40	13.4		...	7	97	40
1911	2581	58	22.4	41	15.8		2	11	189	43
1912	2581	55	21.3	45	17.4		...	9	163	45
1913	2581	54	20.9	36	13.9	1	2	3	55	37

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2,086

Total population at all ages	2,581	} At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses	634	
Average number of persons per house	4.07	

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.					
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 to 15 25	15 to 25 45	45 to 65 65
Diphtheria	2	...	...	2	...	...
Scarlet fever... ..	1	..	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	...	...	1	...	...
Totals... ..	5	...	...	3	2	...

Isolation Hospital : **Longdendale Smallpox Hospital, Mottram Moor, Hollingworth.**

Total available beds ... 16 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ... 1

TABLE III.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during the Year 1913.
HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.		Net Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
All Causes—Certified		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All Causes—Certified		37	3	...	3	1	1	2	9	18
Diphtheria and Croup		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Tuberculous, Meningitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease		2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis		3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia (all forms)		5	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs		1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Senectus		6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Defined Diseases		15	2	...	1	...	...	2	6	5
Totals		37	3	...	3	1	1	2	9	18

TABLE IV.

HOLLINGWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Total under 4 weeks.					Total deaths under 1 year.				
	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.		
All causes—Certified	1	...	...	2	3	
Marasmus	1	1	
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	
Congenital Syphilis	1	...	...	...	1	
Totals	1	...	...	2	3	
Nett Births in the year .	{ Legitimate 52 { Illegitimate 2					{ Legitimate Deaths in the year { Illegitimate Deaths in the year				

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Urban District of Hollingworth, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	20	3	...
(Including Factory Laundries)			
WORKSHOPS	300	...	...
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES .....	...	...	...
(Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total	320	3	...
No Workplaces.		No Homework.	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of Cleanliness .....	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation .....	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding .....	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors .....	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances .....	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation } Insufficient	4	3	1	..
} Unsuitable or Defective .....	...	...	...	...
} Not separate for sexes .....	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s. 101) .....	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) .....	...	..	...	...
Other Offences .....	...	...	..	...
(Excluding offences relating to out-work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	4	3	1	...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 1912.	Number.
Bakehouse	1
Confectioners' Bakehouses	9
Other Workshops	15
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	25

Note.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 132), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to the District Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces, and to send a copy of his Annual Report, or so much of it as deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State (Home Office). If the Annual Report is presented otherwise than in print, it is unnecessary to include in the copy sent to the Home Office the portions which do not relate to factories, workshops, workplaces, or homework. The duties of Local Authorities and the Medical Officer of Health under the Act of 1901 are detailed in the Home Office Memorandum of December, 1904. A further Memorandum, on the Home Work Provisions of the Factory Act, was issued to all District Councils and Medical Officers of Health in October, 1906.

R. POMFRET WYLDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

21st March, 1914.

